



Use of the Government Purchase Card (GPC) in the OCONUS/Contingency Environment



Overview

- Purpose
- Briefing Limitations
- Whose Card to Use
- Authorized Uses
- Purchases Requiring Authorization
- Unauthorized Uses
- Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) Purchases
- **Rules Unique to OCONUS Use**
- **Rules Unique to Contingency Use**
- Other Relevant Issues



Purpose

This briefing is intended to augment, not supplant, annual GPC training and is designed to familiarize CCOs with the unique aspects of GPC use in the OCONUS/Contingency environment.



Briefing Limitations

This briefing provides an overview of AFI 64-117 requirements. However, it also incorporates real world experiences and lessons learned. Actual experiences by deployed CCOs may differ depending on their deployed location, supporting command, and other factors. CCOs with different experiences and lessons learned should convey those to their UDM in an effort to continually improve training.

There is no substitute for reading the AFI!



Whose Card to Use

- GPCs are issued to CCOs by the Command with contracting authority in the AOR
- Typically centralized program only (i.e. CCOs are the only cardholders)
- Caution units at newcomer's briefing or other forum that use of home unit GPCs will not be reimbursed (typically will only use their cards in support of contingencies less than 30 days)



Authorized Uses

- Constitutes expenditure of appropriated funds
- Limited to official, authorized transactions only
- NAF GPCs exist but not common in deployed environment (must be separate card)
- Supplies, equipment, and non-personal services up to \$2,500 (construction authorized up to \$2,000 per project and requires CE coordination)
- Warranted contracting officers may use as payment method on contractual document up to warrant limit (See FAR 13.301)



Purchases Requiring Authorization

- Hazardous and Potentially Hazardous Material
- Communication and Computer Equipment and Software
- Medical Items
- Video Equipment
- Rental/Lease of Fleet Motor Vehicles
- Rental/Lease of Aircraft Support Equipment
- Centrally Managed Items
- Construction
- MWR Items



Unauthorized Uses

- Cash Advances
- Travel Related Purchases
 - Permitted if not reimbursable on travel voucher and where the cost of lodging and meals is a host unit expense
 - Subsistence items (not prepared meals) not associated with individual travel may be purchased through the commissary or commercially approved sources
 - Other restrictions apply—refer to AFI 64-117, paragraph 2.2.2
- Rentals or Leases of Land or Buildings Exceeding 30 Days



Unauthorized Uses

- Purchase of centrally managed fuels (i.e. aviation, diesel, etc.)
- Repair of GSA-Leased Vehicles
- Purchase of Hazardous/Dangerous Items to include Weapons
- Personal Services
- Gifts
- Entertainment (See AFI 65-601 V1 for exceptions)
- Controlled Cryptographic Items
- Utility Services
- Purchases from Government Employees



Federal Supply Schedule (FSS)

Purchases

- May make purchases up to \$25,000
 - Must review at least three FSS contracts
 - Must select best value
 - Requirements do not change in OCONUS/Contingency environment



Rules Unique to OCONUS Use

- May make *commercial* purchases up to \$25,000 contingent upon the following
 - All three of the enumerated conditions must be met
 - (1) Purchase is made outside the US
 - (2) From vendors located outside the US
 - (3) For use outside the US
 - Subject to DFARS 213.301 limitations



Rules Unique to OCONUS Use

- DFARS 213.301 limitations
- (i)
 - (A) Is made outside the United States for use outside the United States; and
 - (B) Is for a commercial item; but
 - (C) Is not for work to be performed by employees recruited within the United States;
 - (D) Is not for supplies or services originating from, or transported from or through, sources identified in FAR Subpart 25.7;
 - (E) Is not for ball or roller bearings as end items;
 - (F) Does not require access to classified or Privacy Act information; and
 - (G) Does not require transportation of supplies by sea; and
- (ii) The individual making the purchase
 - (A) Is authorized and trained in accordance with agency procedures;
 - (B) Complies with the requirements of FAR 8.001 in making the purchase; and
 - (C) Seeks maximum practicable competition for the purchase in accordance with FAR 13.104(b).



Rules Unique to Contingency Use

- CCO supporting a contingency operation or a humanitarian or peacekeeping operation also may use the GPC for purchases exceeding the micro-purchase threshold but does not exceed the simplified acquisition threshold (i.e. \$200,000!), if--
 - (i) The supplies or services being purchased are immediately available;
 - (ii) One delivery and one payment will be made; and
 - (iii) all conditions for OCONUS use met (i.e. previous chart)
- Essentially same conditions as SF 44 usage



Rules Unique to Contingency Use

- Except for HAZMAT and Weapon Systems parts, authorizations and coordinations are not required if the cardholder is not collocated with the authorizing official or coordinating office



What to Expect

- Electronic access to statements may not be available—manual reconciliation
- Some foreign vendors still do not accept GPC
- Some foreign vendors offer different pricing for GPC purchases to cover bank charges (i.e. 3-5% markup)
 - When time and workload permits, may consider alternative method of procurement on high dollar purchases to save money
- Document, document, document!



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